

Tabling for MES Guide 2015

Tabling items:

1. Brochures
 - a. Please review beforehand so you can point people toward specific information (i.e. admission requirements)
 - b. Remind them that the website is much more detailed
2. Postcards/bookmarks with photos
 - a. I use these to write notes on the back about different things like different people to contact or different resources that may be of interest to them. I also like to hand it out and say “check out our beach or forest or...” as a way to show them how beautiful Oly is
3. AmeriCorps fliers
 - a. These are for people who are currently in AmeriCorps or who are AmeriCorps alumni. AmeriCorps apply for free and also receive a small scholarship from MES. (military veterans, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, and McNair scholars also apply for free)
4. Business cards
5. List of electives
 - a. This is the list for the current year, but I typically tell people that most of the classes stay the same, especially those taught by non-MES faculty
 - b. I like to point out that our core classes are taught by full-time MES faculty, and our electives are taught by practitioners who work for different agencies and organizations so they get a sense of the type of networks they’ll be building while in the program
6. Sign-up sheet
 - a. Please end any conversations by asking people to sign up for our mailing list. Tell them that we only email them to let them know about events in their area or when applications are open for the year they wish to apply.
7. Tablecloth

Talking points:

1. Curriculum
 - a. Required core classes
 - i. team-taught with faculty from different disciplines
 - ii. cohort of 45 students from different backgrounds go through the classes together
 - iii. explain set up of the classes (lecture then break then seminar in small groups)
 - b. Electives
 - i. Point them to elective sheet if you have it
 - ii. We offer 4-5 every quarter and we try to have a mix of natural and social sciences (we will always offer an ecology course every quarter). They can choose to stick in one discipline throughout their time in MES or mix it up.
 - iii. Highlight the fact that professionals teach the majority of our electives and that only 15 people are allowed into a class.
 - iv. Electives can also be earned through internships, independent study, transfer credits, or MPA courses (transfer and MPA must be pre-approved)
 - c. Thesis
 - i. They will work on this in their second year
 - ii. 16 credit thesis
 1. Requires a thesis workshop of 8 credits in winter and spring of second year
 2. Students must finish by Spring quarter
 3. Students give 15 minute presentation and only need one reader
 4. We match the student to the reader (students can rank who they want) in Case Studies.
 5. They leave Case Studies with a thesis prospectus so they can launch into their thesis in the winter quarter

6. Some students will have permission to start early or go longer depending on their topic
7. Topics can be anything, including field studies
8. Any other questions – send them to me!!

d. General

- i. Can take 2 or 3 years, depending on if you work full-time or not
- ii. Classes in evening, allowing for internships during day
- iii. I like to highlight the fact that MES faculty ONLY teach in MES. Many grad programs have faculty that teach in undergrad and grad. Our setup allows for more support for each student. Student-teacher ratio is 15 (or less) to 1.
- iv. I also like to highlight that they don't need to find a faculty advisor ahead of time before applying to MES – that we admit them based on who they are, not whether they found a faculty advisor. The benefits of this is that a student has the ability to spend the first year exploring their interest area instead of being “stuck” with what their advisor is working on.
- v. We encourage internships and volunteering – basically, we want people to build their resume while in the program
 1. Our office provides tons of internships (both paid and unpaid), jobs, and volunteer opportunities through a blog we maintain (blogs.evergreen.edu/mesweekly) and connections we have in the community. We've even started creating paid internships (that often include thesis projects) specifically for MES students – example: Sustainability in Prisons Project (sustainabilityinprisons.org) hires a handful of students every year in well-paid student positions that also lead to thesis topics.
- vi. Finally, instead of trying to “sell” MES, I just try to have a conversation with people. I ask them what their environmental interest is, why they want to go to grad school, what they are currently doing for work/school/etc. I then try to latch on to a specific part of their story and tell them how MES would help them continue that interest. I want them walking away thinking they've been listened to and that we are a place that can support their interests. I also like to talk about Olympia and all of the resources (both school-related and fun-related) in the area!

2. Admission

- a. We accept any major
- b. Requirements are on the last page of the brochure
- c. Priority deadline for Fall 2016 is Feb 15 – meaning they are guaranteed review
 - i. People will know by mid-March whether or not they are accepted
 - ii. Applying by this date means best chance for financial aid
 - iii. People can apply after this date – usually into the summer, but it depends on how many people are admitted in the first round.
- d. GRE required!!
 - i. We will not review apps without a GRE
 - ii. We do not have a required score, although we like to see 60th-70th percentile. I usually tell people that the GRE is just one component of the application, and that we are looking at all of it – academic and work history, GRE, letters of rec, personal statement
 - iii. People applying by Feb 15 should take the test no later than early to mid-Jan so it gets to us on time
- e. Pre-reqs – 3 classes that must be taken within last 5 years (Fall 2011 and after)
 - i. Stats
 - ii. Natural science (vs. biology only)
 - iii. Social science (vs. econ only)
 - iv. If they aren't sure if they've met a pre-req, have them email me

- v. They can apply without having met all the pre-reqs, but if they're admitted, they will be required to finish before school starts in fall.
- vi. We also recommend that they have 15 quarter credits of natural science and 15 quarter credits of social science from any time in their academic history, but this is not a requirement
- f. Sometimes people ask about our admit rate
 - i. I usually tell them that as long as they showcase their academic capabilities and they "fit" with the program (meaning they are looking for an interdisciplinary program), there is a high likelihood they'll get in. We have been admitting 80-85% of our applicants.
- g. 3 letters of rec
 - i. a combo of faculty and supervisors is good

3. Financial Aid and Costs

- a. Tuition
 - i. 15-16 nonresident tuition (full-time) = \$21,501
 - ii. 15-16 resident tuition (full-time) = \$9,138
- b. Many non-loan opportunities (please review www.evergreen.edu/mes/costs)
 - i. Some require a separate application, which is due March 1 (they will be notified by my office if they apply for MES)
 - ii. Most require the FAFSA, which is available Jan 1 and due March 1
 - iii. Some are based on their admission application
 - iv. Wide range of awards – some are merit-based and some are need-based
 - v. 75% of students receive some type of non-loan aid, especially if they show they have 75% or more need
 - vi. Basic awards for new students
 - 1. Academic Achievement (1 quarter waiver per year for 2 years at both nonresident and resident rate) – based on admission application
 - 2. AmeriCorps scholarship - \$500/year for each year of service. \$250/year for less than a year of service
 - 3. International student waiver (1 quarter waiver per year for 2 years at the nonresident rate) – based on essay from student
 - 4. Bilezikian award – around 75% of resident tuition
- c. Loans
 - i. All grad students can get \$20,500 in unsubsidized loans, regardless of need
 - ii. Many can also get an additional grad PLUS loan to cover remaining costs

4. After MES

- a. Lots of types of jobs out there
- b. Environmental field is a good field to get into – lots of growth
- c. Students who are willing to live in various parts of the country (instead of just Oly) have best chance of finding work
- d. Talk about your own experiences here!!

5. Other

- a. I don't expect you to be able to answer everything, so just tell them to contact me or better yet, tell them you'll have me contact them.